

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 036015 TOSEC 020067
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:FGWISNER:RCB
APPROVED BY AF:WESCHAUFEELE
S/S:MR. GAMBLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 036015 TOSEC 020067

EXDIS, FOR THE SECRETARY FROM SCHAUFEELE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS ON RHODESIA

1. ON FEBRUARY 14 THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT INSTRUCTED ITS AMBASSADOR IN CAPE TOWN TO INFORM THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT THAT WHILE BRITAIN APPRECIATES VORSTER'S READINESS TO ENGAGE HIMSELF DIRECTLY IN DISCUSSIONS ON A RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT, THE BRITISH ARE STILL CONSIDERING POLICY ALTERNATIVES AND THEIR STUDY HAS BEEN DELAYED BECAUSE OF CROSLAND'S STROKE. THEY DID NOT TELL THE SOUTH AFRICANS WHEN A MEETING WOULD BE POSSIBLE.

2. SEPARATELY, THE BRITISH HAVE INFORMED US THEY INTEND TO DISCUSS SOUTHERN AFRICA DURING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 21 IN WASHINGTON WITH US BUT HAVE NOT MADE A DECISION WHETHER THEIR REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE ABLE TO MEET BOTH WHILE THEY ARE HERE. I HAVE ASKED THE BRITISH TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF AN INFORMAL MEETING WITH
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BOTHA DURING THE COURSE OF OUR BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS.

3. THE BRITISH UNWILLINGNESS TO SEE THE SOUTH AFRICANS NOW IS, IN PART, BASED ON THE FACT THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS NOT COMPLETED ITS STUDY OF THE RHODESIAN SITUATION. IN PART ALSO, THE BRITISH ARE IRRITATED BY

LEAKS TO THE PRESS IN SOUTH AFRICA TO THE EFFECT THAT
BRITAIN, SOUTH AFRICA AND UNITED STATES WILL SOON MEET
AT A HIGH LEVEL TO LAUNCH A NEW RHODESIAN INITIATIVE.
THE LEAKS WHICH FIRST APPEARED IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN
PRESS HAVE BEEN REPEATED IN THE LONDON PRESS AND GIVEN
HEAVY PLAY. SUCH PUBLICITY, THE BRITISH FEAR AND I
AGREE, MAY FUEL UNDUE SUSPICIONS IN AFRICA THAT A SETTLE-
MENT IS BEING NEGOTIATED WITHOUT FULL CONSULTATIONS WITH
AFRICAN PARTIES AS WELL AS EXPECTATIONS HERE AND ABROAD
THAT A BREAKTHROUGH IS LIKELY.

4. IN A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS TODAY SOUTH AFRICAN
FOREIGN MINISTER MULLER CONFIRMED THAT A NEW
INITIATIVE IS IN THE MAKING AND SAID QTE WHATEVER
SOLUTION IS ACHIEVED WILL HAVE FAR REACHING CONSEQUENCES
FOR RHODESIA, FOR SOUTH AFRICA AND FOR THE WHOLE SOUTHERN
AFRICAN SUB-CONTINENT. UNQTE I CALLED BOTHA AND TOLD
HIM THAT MULLER'S STATEMENT ON TOP OF THE PRESS LEAKS
IS MOST UNHELPFUL AND URGED HIM TO TURN OFF FURTHER
COMMENT. BOTHA PROMISED TO SEE WHAT HE COULD DO AND
SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD AND APPRECIATED OUR CONCERNS.

5. WE ARE RESPONDING TO PRESS INQUIRIES ON THIS
SUBJECT BY SAYING THAT NO HIGH LEVEL MEETING BETWEEN
BRITAIN, SOUTH AFRICA AND UNITED STATES IS CURRENTLY
PLANNED.
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PAGE 01 STATE 036015
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DRAFTED BY: AF: KHSMITH:MN

APPROVED BY: AF: AMB. SCHAUFLE JR.

S/S: SESTEINER

-----171639 080570 /42

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 036015

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 036015 ACTION USDEL SECRETARY
FEB 17, 1977

QTE S E C R E T STATE 036015 TOSEC 020067

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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